

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA

1	SAGE SCHMIDT, A Minor,)	
2	By and Through Doran)	
3	Schmidt, her natural mother))	
4	and Next Friend, and DORAN))	
5	SCHMIDT, Individually,)	
6	Plaintiffs,)	8:13CV143
7	vs.)	
8	THE BELLEVUE MEDICAL)	Omaha, Nebraska
9	CENTER, LLC,)	July 8, 2015
10	Defendant.)	

TRANSCRIPT OF MARTIN GUBERNICK TESTIMONY
BEFORE THE HONORABLE LAURIE SMITH CAMP
CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

A-P-P-E-A-R-A-N-C-E-S

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Proceedings recorded by mechanical stenography, transcript
produced with computer.

1 (Proceedings held but not transcribed.)

2 (Telephone call placed.)

3 THE COURT: Dr. Gubernick, this is Judge Laurie Smith
4 Camp. Can you hear me?

5 THE WITNESS: I can.

6 THE COURT: Very good. Thank you for joining us
7 today.

8 I would ask you first to state your name for the record.

9 THE WITNESS: Martin Gubernick.

10 THE COURT: Very good.

11 MARTIN GUBERNICK, PLAINTIFF'S WITNESS, SWORN

12 THE COURT: Very good.

13 Your counsel now will ask you questions.

14 DIRECT EXAMINATION

15 BY MR. PATRICK CULLAN:

16 Q. Dr. Gubernick, the Court stated at the onset of this
17 hearing -- and you weren't here -- she is concerned -- she has
18 a hard time understanding what violations of the standard of
19 care occurred at the Bellevue Medical Center that led to these
20 injuries --

21 A. Okay.

22 Q. -- and how you base your opinions.

23 A. Okay. So here's something crystal clear: When this
24 patient arrived at Bellevue hospital, she had what's known as
25 an arrest of the active phase of labor. She had been 7

1 centimeters dilated for multiple hours. The average patient
2 dilates somewhere between 1.2 to 1.4 centimeters per hour.
3 And she had been sitting at 7 centimeters for hours.

4 By definition, that is an arrest of labor, arrest of the
5 active phase of labor, to be specific. Because she's 7
6 centimeters, that puts her in the active phase.

7 The gold standard -- not the standard, but the gold
8 standard comes from Emanuel Friedman, former chairman for the
9 -- at Harvard University, at Beth Israel Hospital; did his
10 residency at Columbia where he did the gold standard work on
11 arrest of the active phase of labor.

12 I'd venture to say every obstetrician in the country
13 understands what you have to do when there's an arrest of the
14 active phase of labor. There's probably no labor and delivery
15 chart in the United States that doesn't have the Friedman
16 Curve. And that is, you're in a fork in the road. One or two
17 things is going on. There's either a dystocia, what we call
18 cephalopelvic disproportion, and that could be a function of
19 baby too big, the pelvis too small, or the position of the
20 baby not being right. In plain language, the baby -- it's
21 like a round peg going through a square hole. It's just not
22 fitting.

23 Or the contractions, what we call the forces of labor,
24 are not strong enough. So in other words, the hammer isn't
25 hitting the peg hard enough. One of those two things are

1 happening. Either the hammer isn't hitting the peg hard
2 enough, or it's a round peg through a square hole for the
3 reasons that I gave.

4 And the standard of care, the gold standard, is to
5 evaluate whether the contractions are strong enough. And
6 that's what we do in modern medicine. We put an internal
7 pressure transducer in. We measure the strength of the
8 contractions. We have definitions of what is considered
9 adequate and not adequate. They're called Montevideo units.

10 And if the contractions are inadequate, if the hammer
11 isn't hitting the peg hard enough, we add Pitocin. And it's
12 totally appropriate.

13 But if the hammer is hitting the peg hard enough, if we
14 put in an internal pressure transducer, we measure how strong
15 the contractions are, we know -- if we've ever -- you know,
16 anybody that's done any carpentry, if you're trying to get a
17 round peg through a square hole and the hammer is already
18 hitting it, if you hit it hard enough, you are either going to
19 hurt the hammer, or you're going to hurt the peg, which is the
20 baby, or you're going to hurt the hole, which is, you know,
21 the mother's pelvis.

22 So if you have inadequate contractions -- which there is
23 no evidence of in this case because they never put an internal
24 pressure transducer in -- you give Pitocin. That's
25 appropriate.

1 If you have adequate contractions, the standard of
2 care -- the gold standard of care is to perform a caesarian
3 section. And that was the deviation from good and acceptable
4 practice. That's where it started.

5 Then once they gave this Pitocin -- if you're trying to
6 get a round peg through a square hole and it's not working,
7 what's going to happen? You're going to change the oxygen
8 delivery to the baby. Because if baby -- as you're putting
9 it -- you know, you're increasing the contractions with the
10 Pitocin. The baby is trying to get into the pelvis, okay?
11 The trauma of the baby trying to get into a pelvis that it
12 can't fit in over time is going to cause ischemia, it's going
13 to cause local trauma to the head, and it's ultimately going
14 to injure the baby.

15 And how do we see this? We see this from the tracings so
16 clearly going from a category I to a category II to a category
17 III.

18 So I mean really what happened here is just so obvious
19 that through the inappropriate use of Pitocin, by not
20 adequately evaluating the strength of the uterine
21 contractions, by giving the Pitocin inappropriately, they try
22 to force the baby that wasn't naturally fitting through the
23 pelvis into the pelvis.

24 Now, it's absurd for other defense experts to say, well,
25 I never heard of this trauma business.

1 Well, if I would say to them so you mean you would let a
2 baby labor for a week, two weeks, three weeks, four weeks?
3 There's going to reach a point where someone is going to say,
4 well, that's absurd. We don't -- you know, that's how
5 caesarian sections were invented, to protect the baby.

6 Long before we ever monitored the baby, long before we
7 ever did fetal heart rate monitoring, we did caesarian
8 sections. Why? It's like a lifeguard going in to save the
9 baby because we know if you allow people to labor long enough,
10 and the contractions just keep trying to move a baby down into
11 the pelvis that isn't fitting through, you're going to hurt
12 the baby.

13 We've known that, not for decades, probably known it for
14 a couple hundred years.

15 MR. WELCH: Your Honor, would it do any good if I
16 objected to this?

17 THE COURT: Well, I think that counsel is indicating
18 that the response has become narrative and so --

19 THE WITNESS: Okay. So what can I answer? Ask me a
20 question.

21 THE COURT: Let me ask a few questions, if I may --

22 THE WITNESS: Sure.

23 THE COURT: -- because I'm the one who was looking
24 through the materials initially.

25 THE WITNESS: Sure.

1 THE COURT: First of all, let me say that two of the
2 causation theories or opinions that you have have not been
3 objected to. And I anticipate that you will be allowed to
4 testify to those things.

5 THE WITNESS: Yes.

6 THE COURT: And one is there was insufficient oxygen
7 in the fetal blood due to the excessive uterine activity after
8 the Pitocin was administered.

9 THE WITNESS: Yes.

10 THE COURT: And the second is that inflammation --

11 THE WITNESS: Chorioamnionitis.

12 THE COURT: -- resulted from -- right -- the rupture
13 of the membranes --

14 THE WITNESS: Yes.

15 THE COURT: -- due to the long intense labor.

16 THE WITNESS: Yes.

17 THE COURT: Where your testimony and also Dr. Glass's
18 testimony have been subject to objection under the standards
19 that I'm required to apply --

20 THE WITNESS: Yes.

21 THE COURT: -- as a judge, is dealing with the issue
22 of trauma to the infant's head before the head began the
23 descent through the cervix, the cervical area.

24 And so I'd like you to focus on that. And I understand
25 your linking -- it's very helpful to know your linking of the

1 standard of care and the alleged breach of the standard of
2 care with the causation.

3 THE WITNESS: Yes. You can --

4 THE COURT: What I'm having --

5 THE WITNESS: I'm trying to answer your question, but
6 I'm not sure I understand.

7 THE COURT: I'll ask it more clearly. That was kind
8 of background. And I'm being narrative here, too, but I guess
9 I get to do that.

10 THE WITNESS: Okay.

11 THE COURT: What I'm asking is with respect to your
12 theory --

13 THE WITNESS: Yes.

14 THE COURT: -- that the infant in this case suffered
15 trauma to the cranium and the brain --

16 THE WITNESS: Yes.

17 THE COURT: -- in utero --

18 THE WITNESS: Yes.

19 THE COURT: -- before beginning the descent through
20 the cervix, is this theory something that is generally
21 accepted in the medical community and has it been subjected to
22 peer review and publication?

23 THE WITNESS: To answer both your questions,
24 absolutely and absolutely; not -- it's absolute that -- you
25 don't need the baby to be at a certain station in order for

1 the baby to have contact with the mother's pelvis.

2 The definition of engagement is the biparietal diameters
3 are at the level of the ischial spines. But long before that
4 happens, at a minus 1, minus 2 station, the top of the baby's
5 head is already in contact with the mother's bony pelvis.

6 So the issue of engagement, where this baby is at certain
7 points, it's irrelevant. You can have a completely unengaged
8 head -- when I say unengaged, all that means is the biparietal
9 diameter -- you know, the parietal bones are near the ears.
10 The biparietal diameter is not at the level of the ischial
11 spines. That's the definition of engagement.

12 But at a minus 1 station, a minus 2 station, which is
13 unengaged, every time the uterus contracts, the top of the
14 baby's head is pressed against the mother's pelvis.

15 THE COURT: Okay. And can you tell me, if you know,
16 what -- is there a specific medical term that is used to
17 describe that condition or phenomenon?

18 THE WITNESS: I don't know which phenon- -- I don't
19 know which phenomenon you're talking about.

20 THE COURT: The trauma of the baby's head hitting
21 against the pelvic bones while the head is still in utero.

22 THE WITNESS: Well, that's the only time the baby's
23 head hits the mother's pelvis. In other words, the only time
24 the baby is not in utero is after the baby is born.

25 THE COURT: Well, when --

1 THE WITNESS: So when you're saying in utero -- in
2 other words, the in utero concept doesn't end until birth.

3 THE COURT: Okay. And I'm drawing a distinction
4 between when the baby is entirely within the uterus with the
5 head not yet crowning, not yet coming through the cervix, and
6 when that head begins to come through the cervical area into
7 the birth canal where we have heard most of the pressure is
8 likely to occur.

9 THE WITNESS: But Judge, you've got to understand
10 something. You could see -- the baby could be -- you could
11 see the baby's head, okay? You could see the baby's head
12 crowning. That doesn't mean there's been any descent of the
13 bony aspect of the baby's head.

14 Because there's something called molding, okay? So -- I
15 mean, that's the biggest pitfall in obstetrics. That's -- you
16 take a look, the mother's pushing, you see the baby's hair,
17 you think the baby's head is down.

18 But in fact, the bones of the baby -- because -- this is
19 one of the number one reasons that, you know, we have lawsuits
20 over forcep deliveries, because the argument is, "Well, I saw
21 the baby's head, I saw the hair." But in fact, the baby's
22 bones are pressed up against the mother's pelvis because
23 they've never gone through the pelvis.

24 So the business about going through the cervix, crowning,
25 it's irrelevant. It's where the bones of the baby's head are

1 in relation to the bones of the mother's pelvis, because you
2 could have crowning and the baby could be unengaged.

3 THE COURT: Okay. And is it your opinion that the
4 phenomenon you've described is a trauma phenomenon as you
5 talked about the hammer beating the peg against the hole --

6 THE WITNESS: Judge --

7 THE COURT: -- or --

8 THE WITNESS: -- yeah, "or", I'm sorry.

9 THE COURT: -- or do you agree with Dr. Glass in his
10 description of a general pressure around the cranium
11 restricting the blood flow to the brain?

12 THE WITNESS: So that's the spectrum, Judge. And
13 that's why we have electronic fetal monitoring because during
14 a normal labor, when you don't force the issue, there are
15 pressures -- there are always normal -- in normal labor, there
16 are normal pressures. And we're all built to, you know, not
17 be traumatized by these normal pressures.

18 That's not what happened in this case. Okay?

19 These aren't the normal pressures of labor. They started
20 Pitocin, okay? And it's the gold standard that you have to
21 rule out cephalopelvic disproportion before you start the
22 Pitocin.

23 So this isn't -- so I mean, Dr. Glass is correct that in
24 any labor, there's going to be forces on the baby's head. And
25 in 99 percent of the time, those forces are well tolerated and

1 you have a healthy, happy baby.

2 But when you have a baby that's not fitting, and this
3 baby is not coming through in the normal way -- and we know
4 this baby isn't coming through in the normal way because the
5 mother is stuck at 7 centimeters. That's not normal.

6 THE COURT: Let me back you up for a moment on the
7 alleged breach of the standard of care, because I think you
8 mentioned a couple of them.

9 THE WITNESS: Okay.

10 THE COURT: And one was you said you thought that
11 there was a failure to take measurements to determine the
12 mother's pelvic structure, space available, and also to
13 determine the size of the baby and --

14 THE WITNESS: And the position of the baby.

15 THE COURT: -- determine the --

16 THE WITNESS: It's the P's; path -- the passage, the
17 passenger -- that's what we teach the students. Passage,
18 pelvis, passenger -- baby -- and position of the baby, because
19 position is very important where the head is flexed or
20 extended, yeah.

21 THE COURT: Okay. So that's one standard of care.
22 And then the other standard of care you referred to had to do
23 with the --

24 THE WITNESS: The hammer.

25 THE COURT: Well, yeah, the forces of labor.

1 THE WITNESS: Yes.

2 THE COURT: And is it an opinion that you're offering
3 that the defendants at Bellevue hospital failed to determine
4 whether the mother was engaged in active forces of labor,
5 active contractions; or are you saying she, in fact, was still
6 engaged in active contractions and therefore Pitocin was
7 contraindicated?

8 THE WITNESS: What I'm saying is there's a technology
9 available. That's the standard of care. It's called an
10 internal pressure catheter. That's the standard of care.

11 And you can -- you can't know how strong the forces
12 are -- there's no way of knowing it, okay? You know, before
13 this, we -- you know, in the '40s and '50s, we didn't know.

14 Since 1975 we've had available to us an instrument called
15 an internal pressure catheter where we can actually quantify,
16 quantify how strong the contractions are. And through studies
17 of millions of obstetrical patients -- millions -- we know
18 what a normal quantity is, and we know what an abnormal
19 quantity is.

20 And if the woman is already making a normal quantity; in
21 other words -- and those are called Montevideo units. If she
22 already is -- you know, if the hammer is already hitting the
23 peg hard enough, it's not okay to hit the peg harder. And
24 that's what the Pitocin did.

25 THE COURT: I'll interrupt you again.

1 So in this case, are you saying you don't know whether
2 the mother was engaged in the active contractions, but you are
3 saying Bellevue didn't check?

4 THE WITNESS: No. What I'm saying is I know the
5 mother was contracting. There's no issue here. No one is
6 disputing the mother was contracting.

7 The only indication for the Pitocin -- if you look at the
8 package insert, okay? The only indication for the use of
9 Pitocin in the arrest of the active phase of labor is
10 inadequate uterine contractions. And this was never proven in
11 this case. And not proving it put this baby in harm's way.

12 THE COURT: So you're --

13 THE WITNESS: So of course the woman's contracting.
14 There's no question she's --

15 THE COURT: I'm stopping you again.

16 So you're saying there's no question she was contracting.

17 THE WITNESS: Yes.

18 THE COURT: So we're not talking about the failure of
19 Bellevue to determine whether she was contracting. There's no
20 dispute that she was contracting. You're saying the use of
21 Pitocin was contraindicated because she was contracting.

22 THE WITNESS: That's exactly right. Of course
23 there's no -- I'm saying just, you know, the opposite of what
24 you just -- I'm sure she was contracting. I'm sure she was
25 contracting, you know, greatly. She got to 7, which is really

1 good. You know, she's contract- -- I'm sure she was having
2 fabulous contractions.

3 And why did she get stuck at 7? Not because the
4 contractions pooped out. She got stuck at 7 because the baby
5 wasn't fitting through.

6 THE COURT: Okay. So when there is this
7 disproportion and the baby isn't fitting through and there's a
8 dystocia -- the head's too big, the shoulders are too big,
9 whatever --

10 THE WITNESS: Right.

11 THE COURT: -- the pelvis is too small, does that
12 prevent dilation of the cervix?

13 THE WITNESS: Absolutely.

14 THE COURT: Okay.

15 THE WITNESS: Absolutely.

16 THE COURT: All right. I'm going to --

17 THE WITNESS: Because if the head doesn't descend and
18 put pressure on the cervix, it only gets to a certain point.
19 And that's why -- you know, that's why she arrested. That's
20 the definition of arrest of the active phase of labor.

21 THE COURT: So it's not the contraction itself that
22 is causing the cervix to dilate, you're saying it is the
23 pressure of the head --

24 THE WITNESS: Yes.

25 THE COURT: -- on the cervix.

1 THE WITNESS: Yes.

2 THE COURT: Okay. That helps me.

3 Mr. Cullan, you go ahead and question.

4 DIRECT EXAMINATION (Cont'd.)

5 BY MR. PATRICK CULLAN:

6 Q. Yeah. I was just -- can you communicate -- I guess two
7 concepts I don't know the judge necessarily is following.

8 The first is, the number one reason for caesarian
9 sections in this country today is dystocia. Can you tell us
10 what that means?

11 A. We already talked about cephalopelvic disproportion,
12 which means -- and I talked about the P's. Either the pelvis
13 is too small, either the passenger is too big, or the position
14 of the baby is not right, or the powers -- that's the last
15 P -- for uterine contractions even despite the use of Pitocin
16 can't be raised strong enough to get the baby out.

17 THE COURT: I'm going to take this pause to ask you
18 another question.

19 THE WITNESS: Sure.

20 THE COURT: Doctor, you may have seen that in this
21 case when we had the motion in limine filed, there was an
22 amicus brief filed by --

23 THE WITNESS: ACOG.

24 THE COURT: -- ACOG. And they disagreed with the
25 theory concerning the trauma.

1 THE WITNESS: And does that surprise you, Judge, a
2 political organization that represents obstetricians is going
3 to deny that Pitocin and prolonged, excessive labor leads to
4 birth trauma? Does that, like, really shock you?

5 THE COURT: Okay. They indicated that the theory has
6 not been widely accepted.

7 THE WITNESS: How many authors would you like me to
8 give you that have written papers on the very topic that I've
9 just discussed?

10 THE COURT: Well, maybe your lawyers can point out to
11 me in the evidence the peer-reviewed journals that --

12 THE WITNESS: Including ACOG, by the way. Including
13 ACOG.

14 ACOG actually wrote an article saying that birth -- that
15 trauma causes ischemic injury to the baby. ACOG. Would you
16 like -- you know, I can give you that -- that source too.
17 That was written by ACOG.

18 THE COURT: All right.

19 I'm going to turn you back to your lawyer. Mr. Cullan is
20 going to continue questioning.

21 BY MR. PATRICK CULLAN:

22 Q. There have been items brought up that aren't -- as
23 exhibits but I think they were attached to some of the
24 affidavits.

25 Can you tell us what the two-hour rule was with respect

1 to ACOG's publications in terms of dystocia?

2 A. Which ACOG rule? What are you referring to?

3 Q. That's okay.

4 Explain to us through your background, your experience
5 and training, your knowledge of what ACOG has said and not
6 said, why is trauma an exclusion in their own publication to
7 their essential criteria?

8 A. I'd be happy to answer that. Because they have a
9 specific injury which they call -- they named it hypoxic
10 ischemic encephalopathy. That's a very specific kind of --
11 there are many kinds of ischemic injuries.

12 Their specific hypoxic ischemic encephalopathy excludes
13 the traumatic ischemic encephalopathies. So they said if you
14 want to call something HIE, if you want to call it -- and
15 again, it's just a name that they gave a specific -- so in
16 other words, they're defining a specific encephalopathy that
17 has nothing to do with trauma.

18 So they said you must exclude the traumatic causes of
19 ischemic encephalopathy in order to call something hypoxic
20 ischemic encephalopathy.

21 Q. Okay. And what types of trauma are they referring to?

22 A. There are many kinds of trauma. I mean, you can have --
23 you can have this trauma that we're talking about. You can
24 have trauma from forceps. You can have trauma from a vacuum.
25 You can have trauma that, if the baby has some underlying

1 hematologic problem, that the normal forces of labor cause an
2 intracranial bleed. That could be traumatic.

3 So there are many kinds of -- that could be true trauma,
4 like the mother got hit with a baseball bat on her belly.
5 There could be, you know, an abruption leading to trauma. So
6 there are all kinds of trauma that excludes hypoxic ischemic
7 encephalopathy. That doesn't mean the trauma doesn't cause
8 ischemic encephalopathy. It just doesn't cause what they
9 named hypoxic ischemic encephalopathy.

10 Q. Okay. Is the type of birth trauma that you're talking
11 about and that you're opining occurred here encompassed in the
12 term "birth trauma"? And I don't know that I showed you this
13 or not, but the Court has an Exhibit 1001, which was presented
14 to it, that states that a known etiology of this type of
15 injury is birth trauma.

16 Is this the same concept that you're discussing with the
17 Court here now?

18 A. I think if I understand your question -- and I'm not 100
19 percent sure -- I'm talking about birth trauma, yes.

20 Q. Okay.

21 (Off-the-record discussion had.)

22 MR. PATRICK CULLAN: If the Court has any other
23 specific concerns, I think we're kind of into the issue.

24 THE COURT: Okay. We will allow cross-examination.
25 Now the lawyer for the defendant is going to ask you a few

1 questions, Doctor.

2 THE WITNESS: Okay.

3 CROSS-EXAMINATION

4 BY MR. WELCH:

5 Q. Dr. Gubernick, when I took your deposition in December of
6 2014, you had not read any articles on CCIE, had you?

7 A. I had not read anything published. But as I told you in
8 my office, Mark Evans is in my office, who writes with Barry
9 Schiffrin.

10 So I was very aware of this stuff before it was even
11 published, but I didn't see anything in published print yet.
12 I saw it before it was in published print.

13 Q. And that's what you're talking about in this case, are
14 you not? You're talking about a compressive ischemic
15 encephalopathy on this child.

16 A. Which is just another name for something we've known for
17 decades and decades and hundreds of years. But with all due
18 respect to Barry Schiffrin who calls it compressive cerebral
19 ischemic encephalopathy, we're just talking about head trauma.

20 Q. Okay. But you're talking about specifically that
21 hypertonic or, as you called it, tetanic contractions
22 basically compressed this child's skull, which led to the lack
23 of perfusion to brain tissue. And that's what caused this
24 trauma, true?

25 A. Not just that. I mean, what I told you is there -- this

1 was multifactorial, okay? That we couldn't -- and we went
2 through this, I think, for two hours in my deposition.

3 I said that there was more than one thing going on. So
4 it's not just the tetanic contractions because hypothetically
5 speaking, she -- the Pitocin in another case could have caused
6 regular uterine contractions. But because this baby just
7 never would fit through would still cause a traumatic injury.
8 So you didn't have to have tetanic contractions; but in this
9 case, yes, there were tetanic contractions.

10 Q. Well, and to be fair, Doctor, what you told me was that
11 we've got several different things working here, in your
12 opinion --

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. -- that caused the injury.

15 A. Yes, I did.

16 Q. One of those was chorioamnionitis and --

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. -- this child had chorioamnionitis, true?

19 A. I agree with that.

20 Q. Okay. And another area that you said that was causing
21 trama to this child was what?

22 A. I talked about chorioamnionitis. I talked about oxygen
23 deprivation, which was caused by multiple factors. It was
24 caused by excessive uterine contractions. It was caused by
25 tetanic contractions. And it was caused indirectly from the

1 the chorioamnionitis causing local tissue damage and ischemia,
2 all leading to oxygen deprivation.

3 Q. And it's your opinion -- and I don't think this hearing
4 is going to cover it, but I have to say it, it's your opinion
5 that we have a hypoxic ischemic injury even though we have
6 normal blood gases, true?

7 A. Let me be really clear on something. What ACOG calls
8 HIE, I don't -- this does not meet their criteria.

9 They made the criteria. They, you know, made -- they
10 covered a very narrow area of ischemic injury. And it doesn't
11 meet their criteria. This is an ischemic injury, yes, even
12 with the blood gas and whatnot.

13 But if we're talking about HIE -- which is just a name,
14 like Joe or Sam or Harry -- if we're talking about HIE, what
15 ACOG calls HIE, no, this is not HIE.

16 Q. All right. Doctor, I'm going to try to finish up here
17 real quickly and see if you can answer my questions directly.

18 A. I think I did.

19 Q. Well, okay.

20 A. You may not have liked the answer, but I think I answered
21 directly.

22 Q. Well, Doctor, isn't it true that one of the opinions that
23 you're giving here today on the cause of injury to this child
24 was the compressive forces of labor due to tetanic
25 contractions that compressed the fetal head, which then caused

1 a lack of blood profusion, which caused a hypoxic ischemic
2 injury to the child, true?

3 A. An ischemic injury to the -- not a hypoxic ischemic
4 encephalopathy because that's a different criteria, but an
5 ischemic injury to the child, yes.

6 Q. Okay. And that was caused, in your opinion, due to the
7 fact that we have compressive forces on the head which
8 decreased the profusion to brain tissue that then caused
9 injury, true?

10 A. As well as other substantial issues such as oxygen
11 deprivation and infection, yes.

12 Q. Okay. You are not a member of ACOG, correct?

13 A. No, I'm not.

14 Q. There are no skull fractures in this case, true?

15 A. No, no skull fractures.

16 MR. WELCH: That's all I have, your Honor.

17 THE COURT: Redirect?

18 MR. PATRICK CULLAN: Just really quickly, your Honor.

19 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

20 BY MR. PATRICK CULLAN:

21 Q. In the fetal head, is the skull like an adult head where
22 the sutures are fused? Or tell us why there's no skull
23 fracture and why skull fractures aren't expected.

24 A. Yes. Because, you know, babies have soft heads with
25 suture lines that have not fused yet. And that's -- you know,

1 nature is smart about that. So as the baby is trying to get
2 through the pelvis, those bones actually move; because if they
3 didn't move, they would break.

4 So, you know, a skull fracture has nothing -- you know,
5 it's an irrelevant question as to the amount of pressure that
6 would be on the head as if there wasn't a skull fracture.
7 That means there wasn't a lot of pressure. These bones move
8 and they're designed to move -- nature's smart about that --
9 so they don't break.

10 Q. Dr. Barnes, a pediatric neuroradiologist, looked at the
11 films and saw the degree and severity of the overlapping
12 bones, and he --

13 A. And that's the thing. He -- not only he looked at these
14 films, and he said directly -- he's -- he's an expert in the
15 field, and he said this is a traumatic injury directly related
16 to the forces of labor. And I will take it one step further:
17 Due to the inappropriate use of Pitocin.

18 I mean, here's a guy who -- look, he's not just talking
19 about in general, he's looking at these pictures. He saw the
20 asymmetry of the injury, he saw that the scalp was
21 traumatized, he saw the overriding sutures four days after
22 birth which is markedly unusual.

23 So he's not in -- he's not even speaking in the
24 hypothetical term, he's speaking in this particular case,
25 which -- I don't understand why we even have a debate about

1 this.

2 MR. PATRICK CULLAN: If the Court has any further --

3 THE COURT: No. Thank you.

4 I appreciate you joining us by telephone here today,

5 Dr. Gubernick. And thank you very much.

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8 (END OF REQUESTED PROCEEDINGS)

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12 I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript from
the record of proceedings in the above-entitled matter.

13

14 /s Brenda L. Fauber
Brenda L. Fauber, RDR, CRR

7-15-15
Date

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